Non-observation of Labour Laws

969. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Builder Mafia, Carpet Factory owners, Highways/Road Construction Contractors, Kiln owners, Mine owners, etc. do not observe the provisions of Indian Labour Act/various labour laws, meant to ensure protection to the labour;

(b) in this context, whether any survey has been undertaken;

(c) if so, its findings and recommendations;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to check the exploitation of these unorganized labourers, regarding their wages, basic amenities and living environment; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The establishments engaged in different activities like construction, carpet weaving, mining, etc. are required to implement the provisions of various labour laws such as the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. Responsibility for enforcement of these Acts lies both with the Central and State Governments in the establishments falling in the Central and State sphere respectively. The enforcement machinery conducts period inspections to ensure observance of labour laws. However, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has not conducted any specific survey in this regard.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken several initiatives to check the exploitation of the unorganised workers and improve their working and living conditions by enacting certain labour laws which are partially or fully applicable to these workers. The Government has also set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers i.e. beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers.

Further, Janshree Bima Yojana providing for insurance cover to the people living below or marginally above the poverty line is also available for the workers in the unorganised sector. Various Ministries/Departments are also implementing insurance schemes for the occupational groups like handloom weavers, artisans, fishermen, etc. The Government has also constituted a National Commission for the Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector to examine the problems facing enterprises in the unorganised sector. The Government has recently enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Counselling facilities by Employment Exchanges

970. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions of employment exchanges set up in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of employment exchanges, State-wise and the total amount of expenditure incurred on their working; and

(c) whether it is also providing counselling facilities to the educated youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The main functions of Employment Exchanges are (i) register the job-seekers and make submission of candidates against notified vacancies; (ii) collect labour market information to create data base for assessment of demand and supply of labour & preparing career literature; and (iii) provide vocational guidance/career counselling to the job-seekers.

(b) Number of Employment Exchanges, State-wise is given in the Statement (See Below). The Employment Exchanges function under the direct administrative and financial control of the respective State/UT Governments and as such the information is not maintained in details. However, during,the year 2001-2002 on an average the expenditure per Employment Exchange was of the order of Rupees 14.3 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.